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Economic and Social Council

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Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Martin Sajdik (Austria), on the basis of informal consultations

Report of the Committee for Development Policy

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012, both on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the category of least developed countries,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011 endorsing the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[2]

Recalling further its resolutions 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, 2011/20 of 27 July 2011 and 2012/32 of 27 July 2012,

Recalling its resolutions 2009/17 of 29 July 2009, 2010/34 of 23 July 2010 and 2011/44 of 5 December 2011 on the review of United Nations support of small island developing States,

Reiterating its conviction that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its positive development disrupted or reversed, but that it should be able to continue and sustain its progress and development,

Noting the importance of adequate financing to address the challenges created by the adverse impacts of climate change on extremely vulnerable countries graduating from the least developed country category,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/209 of 20 December 2004 establishing that graduation becomes effective three years after the date on which

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.
[2] Ibid., chap. II.

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the Assembly takes note of the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy to graduate a country from the category of least developed countries and that, during the three-year period, the country remains in the category and maintains the advantages associated with membership of that list,

Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining stability in the criteria and in the application of the established procedures for inclusion in and graduation from the least developed country category so as to ensure the credibility of the process and, consequently, of the category of least developed countries, while giving due consideration to the specific challenges and vulnerabilities and the development needs of countries potentially graduating or being considered for graduation from the least developed country category,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fifteenth session;[3]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the work done by the Committee on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development, in accordance with the theme of the annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council in 2013, on addressing the vulnerabilities and development needs of small island developing States, on emerging issues in international development in the post-2015 era and on the guidelines on reporting requirements for smooth transition from the least developed country category;

3. *Requests* the Committee, at its sixteenth session, to examine and make recommendations on the theme of the annual ministerial review chosen by the Council for the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2014;

4. *Also requests* the Committee to monitor the development progress of countries graduated from the category of least developed countries, in accordance with paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 67/221;

5. *Requests further* the Committee to monitor the development progress of countries graduating from the category of least developed countries and to include its findings in its annual report to the Council;

6. *Endorses* the recommendations contained in chapter V of the report of the Committee[3] as a further clarification of the guidelines on the additional reporting procedures by which, as invited by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/221, graduating and graduated countries report on the preparation and implementation of their smooth transition strategy, in order to enhance the transparency of those reporting procedures;

7. *Welcomes* the decision by the General Assembly to take note of the decisions of the Economic and Social Council regarding graduation of countries from the category of least developed countries, as well as the inclusion of countries in that list, at the first session of the General Assembly following the adoption of such decisions by the Council;

8. *Recalls* the recommendation of the Committee that Tuvalu be graduated from the category of least developed countries, and decides to defer the consideration of this issue, on an exceptional basis, to its substantive session of

[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 13* (E/2013/33).

2015, allowing the Council an opportunity for further consideration of the particular challenges that Tuvalu faces;

9. *Reiterates* its satisfaction at the increased frequency of interaction between the Council and the Committee for Development Policy, and encourages the Chair of the Committee and, as necessary, other Committee members to continue this practice as specified in Council resolution 2011/20, within existing resources and as appropriate.